

THE “CONDER” TOKEN

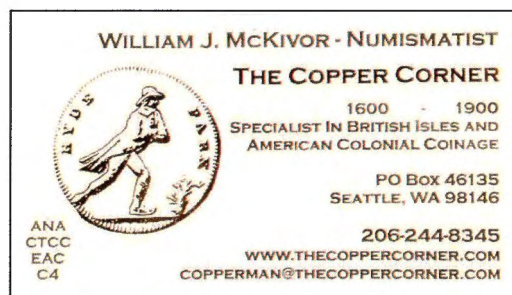
COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONDER TOKEN COLLECTOR'S CLUB

Volume XI Number 2 Summer, 2006 Consecutive Issue #40



THOMAS SPENCE
“THE HIVE OF LIBERTY”
LITTLE TURNSTILE, HOLBAN, LONDON



THE COPPER CORNER

www.thecoppercorner.com

presents the **Dr. Richard Doty collection of Conder Tokens**
List out July 5, if you do not have one please contact me for a free copy.
Nine pages of Conder tokens---many errors, unusual strikes, plate pieces, good stuff!!

Dr Richard Doty---

Curator of the National Money Collection, Smithsonian Museum

The first president of the CTCC

Author of many books on tokens, including

"The Soho Mint and the Industrialization of Money"

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18TH CENTURY TOKENS

EVASION TOKENS

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MEDALS

UNUSUAL ITEMS—

Join your fellow collectors at the annual meeting and dinner, during the ANA Summer Convention, Denver, Colorado August 16-20 2006. My table is #765 on the back wall
SEE YOU THERE!!!

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Summer 2006

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Middlesex 73 (Scarce)

Image by Gary Sriro

INTRODUCTION

MICHAEL GROGAN

2006 CLUB MEMBER MEDAL FOR OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY

The CTCC Executive Committee has approved the production of a 2006 member medal to commemorate the tenth anniversary of our club. Along with the traditional Swan design, the medal will be based on the rare and beautiful Warwickshire 18. Copper medals will be distributed to each active member free of charge, and silver and gilt medals in very limited quantities will be available for separate purchase. Full details will be in the next Journal issue. This is a great way to celebrate our club's birthday!

"TOKEN TALES" ENDS AND SAMUEL BEGINS

Our long running series of "Token Tales" by R.C. Bell has come to an end but fascinating classic token reading will proceed with a continuing series of articles by Richard Thomas Samuel from "The Bazaar, Exchange, And Mart" published from 1880-1889. The introduction to this extensive series began in issue 39 and concludes in this issue along with the first token listing. Samuel's articles were a major source for Dr. Bell's works and provide a look back into the spirit of Conder collecting in the late nineteenth century for us all to enjoy.

MEMBER ADS ARE UPDATED

Free member advertisements in The Token Exchange and Mart have been reviewed and updated for this issue. Be sure to look through this section of the Journal for many current announcements, buy, and sell ads from our members. Then send in your free ad for the next issue.

ARTICLES NEEDED

Your article is needed for the next issue of the Journal. This issue offers a great variety of interesting summer reading on a variety of Conder token topics. Consider making a contribution to the next issue. I will be glad to help any member get started or put the final polish on an article.

ON THE COVER

Thomas Spence [1750-1814] from Middlesex 677, image by Gary Sriro.

As the token inscription states, Spence was arrested in May 1794, along with other members of the London Corresponding Society, under the Suspension Act, imprisoned for seven months, charged with High Treason, and finally acquitted in December, 1794. His headquarters at this time was a shop he called "The Hive of Liberty" in Little Turnstile, Holban, London. He made his living selling printed material and the tokens we eagerly collect today. Spence reduced his profits, however, by throwing handfuls of his tokens at passersby from an upstairs window and soon went broke.

CTCC members Bill McKivor, Jerry Bobbe, and Mike Wehner visited the location of Spence's shop on their trip to London last fall as told in this issue, but no tokens were reported to have been thrown their way.

TEN YEARS AND WE HAVE NOT MISSED ONE YET

Please note that this, our club's 40th consecutive issue, is our 10th Anniversary Issue as well. A real collector's item (Hint Hint). It is amazing to think that we have not only made it through 10 consecutive years, but our club has managed to produce a very fine product, year after year, quarter after quarter, without interruption. Although Wayne Anderson is no longer with us, his legacy lives on.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of those who have worked so hard in the past to make this possible, and to those who continue the good work today: our editors, publishers, librarian, vice-presidents, past presidents, paid advertisers, and our members who over the years continue to submit those learned, colorful, interesting, scholarly, and intriguing articles that keep our Journal so lively.

It is amazing how many people have been involved, how necessary their involvement has been, and how consistently it has been offered. If you have remained on the sidelines for whatever reason in the past, please reconsider. The water's warm, and there's plenty of room in the pool. Take the opportunity to join us as the CTCC extends a warm....

Welcome To One And All To Denver

The ANA World's Fair of Money is coming soon, and that means so to is our annual CTCC general meeting and gala dinner to follow. Please take a careful look at your calendars and see if you can make it. We would love to see you there.

The annual CTCC general meeting at this time is scheduled for Friday night the 18th of August. We always try get a time somewhere around 5:00pm to 6:30 pm. Be sure to check and verify the scheduling by checking with the official ANA schedule of events upon your arrival. We will also try to have restaurant reservations made in advance for our group, and an announcement as to name and location will be made at the meeting if available.

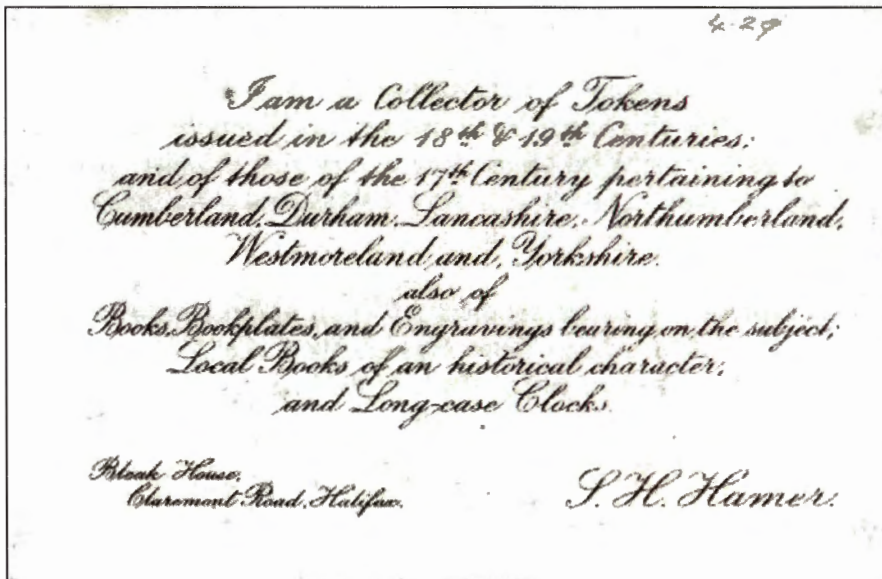
This year I am looking for volunteers to be the official club photographer, and the official club stenographer, to take notes and photos at both the general meeting and the festivities afterwards with an eye towards publishing an article for the next journal. Please let me know if you can help out. This can be either one or two persons, if you would like to split up the tasks.

I have heard through the grapevine that a surprising number of our club members have expressed their desire to go.....please contact either Bill McKivor or myself if you are coming, as we will need to make sure both the meeting room and the restaurant can accommodate the size of our group.

I will do everything I can to try to make it myself again this year, as it was such great fun at the last one. God willing, I will be seeing you all there,

Gregg Moore, president

S. H. Hamer in Pursuit of a Rarity by Michael Knight



Recently an interesting letter and calling card sent by S. H. Hamer to a Mr Warburton trying to buy a rare token that he owned has come to light (1).

As well as giving his address, Hamer's card listed what he was interested in collecting, which ranged from tokens, token books to long-case clocks. Although he will always be remembered as a student and collector of the eighteenth and nineteenth century series his card shows an interest in seventeenth century tokens of 6 northern counties, including his



native Yorkshire. The catalogue of Hamer's collection (2) records that he had formed a fine group of these seventeenth century pieces. The card features the design of one of his privately minted tokens (3) and his signature, and he also used a reproduction of this side of his card as his bookplate.

The letter was written on headed paper giving Hamer's address and dated April 16, 1929. The token that he was trying to buy was an example of the Bolton Castle (4) penny struck on a Spanish dollar. A look at Hamer's 1930 sale catalogue shows that he was unsuccessful in his attempt.

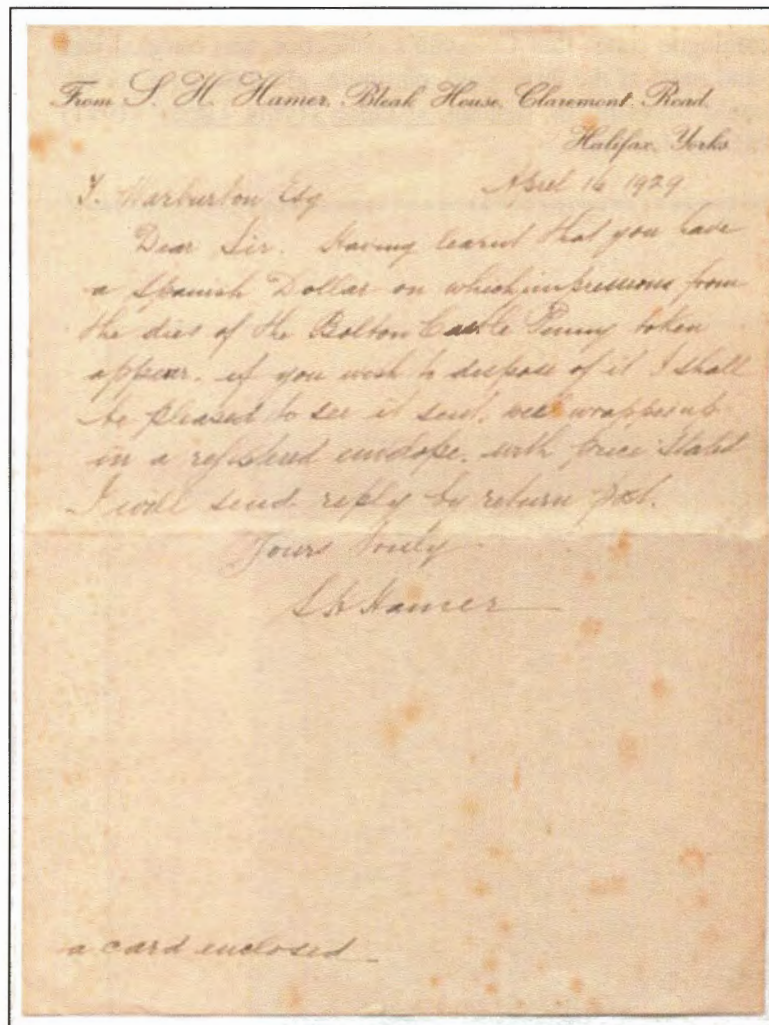
The token may have ended up in Francis S Cokayne's collection (1871-1945). Lot 112 in his sale held at Glendining 17/18 July 1946 is described as:

Yorkshire. Bolton, a copper-plated Spanish Dollar over-struck with the dies of the Bolton Castle Penny and an additional countermark of bust of George III in oval, only one other known in the British Museum, the Davis (5) and Murdoch (6) specimen was also plated, but is

presumed melted by burglars as it was stolen from Cokayne collection (vide preface)(7) Very Fine, pierced. Plate V



Lot 112 from the Cokayne sale. The oval head countermark can be seen inverted in the centre of the obverse



a card enclosed

Full text of the letter is:

From S H Hamer, Bleak House, Claremont Road, Halifax Yorks

April 16 1929

J Warburton Esq

Dear Sir, Having learnt that you have a Spanish Dollar on which impressions from the dies of the Bolton Castle Penny token appear, if you wish to dispose of it I shall be pleased to see it sent, well wrapped up in a registered envelope, with price stated. I will send reply by return post.

Yours truly

SH Hamer

Notes

- (1) Sold on UK ebay March 2006. I am indebted to the purchaser, Michael Finlay, for the images of the letter and card used here.

- (2) Glendining 26-28 November 1930. His collection contained 3 pieces from Cumberland (5 pieces listed in Williamson), 20 from Durham (51), 42 different plus 11 duplicates from Lancashire (145), 7 from Westmoreland (19) and 318 from Yorkshire (445). Williamson lists 10 pieces from Northumberland, all of which are very rare, but Hamer's catalogue didn't contain any from the county.
- (3) Type A7, R C Bell 'Tradesmen's Tickets and Private Tokens 1785-1819' (1966), page 284
- (4) See D&H Yorkshire 1 for type
- (5) W J Davis. Sotheby 11-15 March 1901. Lot 499, described as "struck on a Spanish dollar and countermarked with the head of George III"
- (6) John G Murdoch. Sotheby 12/13 December 1904. Lot 102, described as "struck on a spurious Spanish dollar previously countermarked with the head of George III in a small oval"
- (7) The preface of his 1946 catalogue states that Cokayne's collection was burgled just after the First World War and most of the large gold, platinum, gilt and silver tokens were stolen. James O'Donald Mays in his 'Tokens of those Trying Times' (1991) stated that the collection was burgled twice.



The Library

PROVINCIAL COPPER COINS, OR TOKENS (EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH CENTURIES)

Give a man a reasonable hobby

And

you do something to promote his intellectual and moral welfare.

This article is Part II of a continuing series of articles taken from Samuels Introduction to the Provincial Copper Coins, or Tokens, the first part of which was begun in the Spring 2006 CTCC Journal Issue #39.

From about the middle until nearly the end of the eighteenth century, the copper currency of the country, consisting at that time of halfpence and farthings only, became in a most disgraceful state, consequent upon the deficiency of regal coinage and the enormous quantity of spurious coins in circulation. To such an extent had the practice of counterfeiting been carried on, that, among the various complaints made at the time, one who should be an authority on the subject asserted that “not a fiftieth part of the copper currency then in circulation was legitimate.”* This seems almost incredible; and it will be necessary and interesting in these days, when a solitary utterer of counterfeit halfpence (+) excites but a contemptuous smile, to trace the history of the circumstances which necessitated the issue of tokens, for few persons have now any idea of the difficulty which base copper money for years presented to this country.

So early as 1742 we read of half a dozen men being conveyed from Birmingham to Warwick Gaol, “under a strong guard of soldiers,” for coining bad halfpence; though, curiously, its provisions did not extend to the uttering of such coins; and it was probably in some measure owing to this oversight that the alteration in the law did not prove of much avail, although convictions were of frequent occurrence; the old law being too lenient in this respect. In 1751 it was found necessary to issue an official proclamation on the subject, while Birmingham also put forth an announcement of refusal to take counterfeits, but after the rate of 8d. per lb., “in order to their being melted,” and later in that year we learn that 4cwt. Of bad halfpence were seized in London “at an inn,” and conveyed

(+) In July last a man named James Robinson was tried and convicted in London for uttering counterfeit bronze halfpence; and it may not be generally known that the current penny can be manufactured by the Mint at a profit for one farthing; while the halfpenny, if the metal be worth 10d. per lb., is – apart from the fractional cost of production – of the exact value of half a farthing.

* Pinkerton's “Essay on Medals” 8vo, London, 1780, vol. 2, p.65.

to the Tower. In 1753 the Malt Distillers publicly advertised that they would not receive or pay counterfeit halfpence in future! In 1754 a meeting of “many considerable traders,” held at “the Crown Tavern, behind the Royal Exchange,” in London, resolved upon petitioning the Lords of the Treasury “praying to be relieved from the burden of bad copper coin”: and a suspension of the copper coinage for a few years was obtained. This, in conjunction with a more rigorous enforcement of the laws, it was hoped, would check the evil; and it may be mentioned, *en passant*, that no more copper coins were minted during the remainder of this reign. In 1755 a proposal was made to the Government to call in and re-coin the copper money in circulation, but the Mint authorities reported against it, and expressed an opinion that “it would greatly prevent counterfeiting if genuine halfpence and farthings were ordered to be current at three and six to a penny!” Another representation and petition was laid before the Privy Council by several of his Majesty’s dutiful and loyal subjects “loaded with copper money” accompanied by a proposed scheme for re-coinage; which, however, was not acted upon.



An obvious counterfeit

In 1771 things became very bad, in this respect; for, although twenty tons of copper money were said to have been minted, but little of it found its way into circulation, the counterfeiters destroying it to facilitate their business; and it was necessary to adopt more stringent measures for the suppression of this growing evil. Accordingly, in this year the Act of the 11th Geo.III c.40 was passed, making the offence, which had previously been a misdemeanor only, one of felony. This Act dealt with the copper coinage alone: and it was enacted by sect. 2 that any persons who should “buy, sell, take, receive, pay, or put off any counterfeit copper money not melted down or cut in pieces, &c., should be adjudged guilty of felony.”

Even this alteration in the law, which, it will be observed, cured the difficulty as to uttering, did not have the desired result, for in 1775, at a meeting of tradesmen, held at the

King's Arms Tavern in Cornhill, London, it was unanimously agreed "to stop the circulation of bad halfpence," which was not, however, so easily done; as in February of the following year another meeting was held, at Garraway's Coffee House, and a reward of £40 to informers, provided by the Act last quoted, publicly notified: while, at a meeting of the "principal inhabitants of Birmingham," held in the same month, a reward of £20 was put forth, coupled with the following: "N.B. The real value of 2s. 6d. worth of counterfeit halfpence is not more than 3d.!" - a bit of a "bull!" Again, in 1778, at a meeting of the principal traders of that town, held at Cooke's Coffee House, in Cherry-street, an agreement was signed to prosecute offenders; while, in 1780, we find it announced that, owing to the "amazing quantity of counterfeit halfpence in circulation," the public officers determined upon pursuing "rigorous measures" to put a stop to this industry!



Middlesex 223 (Scarce)

Image by Gary Srio

However, in 1783 Mr. Fox presented a petition to the House of Commons from several hundred inhabitants of Westminster, "aggrieved by the circulation of bad halfpence," praying for relief; but this does not appear to have produced any result; and people seem at last to have grown weary of attempting to rid themselves of the nuisance, and become accustomed to look upon it as one from which there was little hope of delivery, the apparently exhaustless flow of base stuff being made and passed with the greatest effrontery, in defiance of the law and contempt of all efforts to apply it.

It should be observed that even in the legal mintage the intrinsic worth of the metal was not one half that of its currency, and consequently forging – even in good metal – was very profitable; for whereas the pound of copper in its crude state was worth 10d. only, in the process of coining it was made to produce forty-six halfpence; and, in the case of the actual counterfeits manufactured, it was calculated that a press and two hands could

produce fifty gross of coins in a day, at a cost of less than 8d. per lb. to circulate as currency at a value equal to 3. per lb. It is not, therefore, altogether surprising that this was a trade which grew and flourished.

Things continuing in this state, in fact getting worse, ultimately became intolerable, and in the year 1787 the Parys Mine Company struck and issued the first example of the fine series of eighteenth century copper tokens; and these form the first division of the subject of which we propose to treat.

Of this series a very competent authority remarks: "Excepting the coins of the Romans, there has nothing occurred parallel to these, within so short a period, since the eras of the ancient independent States of Greece, when almost every city had its distinct coinage. Our modern coins of cities in Britain," he adds, "exceed the ancient in neatness of finish, from the use of the mill and invention of indenting, or of elevating letters round the outer edge, as much as they fall short of them in the high relief and boldness of execution in the representations which they bear; but in their great variety, and, in most cases, appropriate imagery they approach the nearest to the merit of the Roman reverses of anything that has occurred in the mintages of modern times"; and while regretting that the portraits on them "are, in general, far from being accurate," he concludes, "such as they are, however, it must be acknowledged that they are, upon the whole, not inferior to the effigies of the Roman Emperors on coins of the Lower Empire." (@) We consider the latter remark does but scanty justice to the series, taken in its entirety.

Another writer observes, "though at present no high value be set upon Town pieces and Tradesmen's tokens, by men of learning, a time will come when these coins will be as much esteemed in this country as the Town pieces of the Greeks"; (#) and this prediction is slowly, though surely, in course of fulfillment.

(@) "Civis" Mon. Mag., 1796. (*this is reference to a Mr. James Wright Jr., the designer of many of the more beautiful Scottish Conder Tokens, who wrote numismatic related articles for magazines of his time under the moniker "Civis"*)

(#) Dr. Combe Clay's "Currency of the Isle of Man"; 8vo., Douglas, 1865; p.97.

This concludes that portion of Samuel's introduction to the Provincial Copper Coins, or Tokens, dated December 29, 1880. The next installment of this introduction continues in the January 19, 1881 edition of The Bazaar, the Exchange and Mart, which is where we will take it up again in the fall). While...

This begins the first installment of the listed coins. It is taken as close to exactly as written and formatted in the February 9th, 1881 edition of The Bazaar, Exchange, And Mart, in order to more accurately capture the flavor of the times.

Descriptive List of Genuine Eighteenth Century Tokens

ENGLAND – BEDFORDSHIRE

This country is not rich in the genuine tokens of the 18th century, having but a solitary specimen of a halfpenny one to be noticed.



Bedfordshire 3c

Image by Gary Siro

Leighton Buzzard

Halfpenny.

No. 1. *Obverse*. – A girl, occupied in making lace, facing to the left, and seated under a tree.

Legend. – “Lace manufactory.”

Reverse. – A lamb.

Legend. – “Pay at Leighton, Berkhamptstead, or London,” and date “1794” under the lamb.

Borders slightly ribbed.

Edge. – Inscribed “Chambers, Langston, Hall, and Co. * * * *”

Notes. – Artist, Wyon; Manufacturer, Kempson, both of Birmingham. Issuers, Messrs. Chambers, Langston, Hall, and Co.

Design and Execution. – As Wyon was one of the best artists of the time, and Kempson, as a manufacturer, turned out some of the finest works of the day, this token is, as might be expected, of very good design and execution, though surpassed by many.

Rarity. – Specimens are common, one ton weight of these coins having been struck.

General. – It will be observed, that this token is made payable at three places, viz., Leighton, in Bedfordshire, Berkhamptstead, in Herts, and London, where Messrs. Chambers, Langston, Hall, and Co. carried on business as haberdashers at 46, Gutter-Lane, Cheapside. The designs on the obverse and reverse are evidently in allusion to the business of the issuers. Conder does not notice this token at all under Bedfordshire, but classes it as “Chamber’s” among London tokens. We consider, however, that Leighton being the first place indicated at which it was made payable, it is properly included in this county, the issuers evidently being connected with Leighton and Berkhamptstead.

The next coin in the series to be presented will be the Buckinghamshire DH 3, the Aylesbury halfpence. We encourage you to send in any unique information you may have on this coin; any quality photos of a unique die variety; any metals other than copper, or a particularly spectacular example for publication in our Journal.

This would greatly enhance our own efforts and would be most appreciated. Sincerely, Gregg

Moore



American "Conder" Tokens

Tom Fredette



"These tokens...were *status symbols* for the wealthy merchant class in a very inegalitarian America - much as the British tokens of the 1789-1796 period were to *that* industrialized, unequal society."
Russell Rulau

During the time period of 1832-1844, a token issue emerged in the United States which came to be known as "Hard Times" tokens. They were created for many of the same reasons as the late Eighteenth and early Nineteenth century British tokens and many Hard Times tokens bear remarkable similarities to what could possibly be called their British counterparts. The writer thinks that he can safely speculate along these lines, having been "cursed" with the desire to always know more about (and to acquire over the years) the coin and token issues from various U.S. and British time periods.

And when the writer first became interested in looking more closely at the designs on late Eighteenth century British tokens, he was impressed with one design in particular because of this interest. It is the anti-slavery design seen on a number of the issues in the Middlesex Political and Social series. How similar it was in appearance to another token with which he was familiar! This other token is, of course, a U.S. Hard Times token and the similarity in design is, I suspect, no accident. This writer does not think that it is accidental at all that there are probably over a dozen Hard Times tokens that have brothers and sisters in the "Conder" token series. The general period for issue and use of these coppers post-date the British series by only 40-50 years.

We know that many of the tokens of late 18th century Britain began circulating in the U.S. before the 1832-44 period for these pieces. So seeing these design similarities becomes a pleasant surprise. (This is a familiar premise which can be confirmed for the reader by reviewing Issue 31 of the CTCC Journal and the article entitled "An Even Dozen.")

In addition to the slavery token design similarities, we will

also see the related design motifs of the liberty cap; sailing ships; a beehive; a wheat sheaf; animals and so forth. Let us begin our adventure.

Our friend Thomas Spence starts us off with his image of a "pig trampling upon the emblems of royalty," Middlesex Nos. 842-48. The "American version" (Low Nos. 9-11) expresses political sentiments like its counterpart. The pig is even facing in the same direction. It evokes the images of greed and a desire for power.



The belief in rebirth as expressed by the mythical phoenix rising from the ashes is a symbol seen on this next token. It is a Connecticut issue catalogued by Low as No. 130 and is classified as rare. It bears an uncanny similarity to Buckinghamshire No. 27. The legend of the phoenix was well known on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

Ships are a prominent metaphorical vignette shown on both issues. Greg Silvis refers to an illustration in his recent article as "...yet another ship sailing..." The United States' presence in this Nineteenth century maritime world is shown on Low No. 63. It compares very well to many late Eighteenth century issues. The Portsea issue (Nos. 79,80) shown is a favorite of the writer because of the depiction of Saint George and the dragon.



AM I NOT A WOMAN



AM I NOT A MAN



This is the token that started it all. Russell Rulau notes that "kneeling male slave tokens, undated, with clasped hands on reverse, are earlier English pieces, relatively common." This probably is the most obvious reference to the premise of this article. The slavery issue had been and still was a prominent political force for both the U.S. and Great Britain for many decades. Shown are Low No. 54 and Middlesex No. 1037.



Our next example may stretch it a bit but the reader could take note of the similarity of design in these two examples. Rulau notes the connection this token (Low No. 298) has to Montreal and Birmingham. It depicts ironware in a way similar to the arrangement of the military trophies shown on Somersetshire No. 24. These are "miscellaneous" arrangements, but very clean and useful designs.



We are next shown two umbrella makers. The merchant class is well represented in both the "Conder" and "Hard Times" issues. Another scarce token in this series, Low No. 112's design leaves no doubt about its purpose. The case is presented likewise for Hancock's issue which is catalogued by D&H as Nos. 320-322. The designs have a mirror-like resemblance.

One of the examples used by this writer in previous articles is the wheat sheaf. Wheat, of course, refers to bread - the staff of life and represents nicely the idea of using symbols on tokens which are easily recognizable and which will draw attention to a message. Shown is the issue of H. Law of New York City (Low No. 261) and Cambridge No. 19. The idea represented by both of these tokens is an evocative one.



Peale's museum (Low Nos. 269-70) uses the symbol of a helmeted and plumed head as the centerpiece of its design. It is easy to see the resemblance between this design and the helmeted bust design of Southampton Nos. 81-86. It is another "striking" example, hard to miss when one is making comparisons such as the ones the writer is dealing with.



The liberty cap is a symbol seen on the coinage and tokens of many nations and was the subject of an article by this writer in Issue No. 20, Spring, 2001. It is prominently shown here on Low No. 7. It is a rare American token. Skidmore's Middlesex Issue No. 514 shows a similar rendition of the liberty cap with Minerva - the Roman goddess of wisdom on the obverse.





A third example seen in both token series and also used previously as an illustration by this writer is the beehive. Rulau refers to the example, Low No. 194, as possibly "...having an English origin." He says no more about it. But when one makes the comparison to the Cambridge issue, one could see why he would think of the issue in this way.

Animals on the token issues of both series are not uncommon. There seem to be more of them on the British issues than on the U.S. Fifty or so years earlier many of those shown were still curiosities. This "Conder" shows a two-headed cow from Pidcock's series, Middlesex No. 449. Maybe the cow with two heads could represent the dual nature of the token series which is the subject of this article. The Hard Times token example is Low No. 66.



The several references by Russell Rulau in his book about United States tokens from the early third of the Nineteenth century to having English connections or English origins make this journey a pleasant and useful one. Once again, the desire to "know more" is satisfied. More is revealed to us about the similarities and wishes of people. Further study of each token series may reveal even more pleasant surprises.

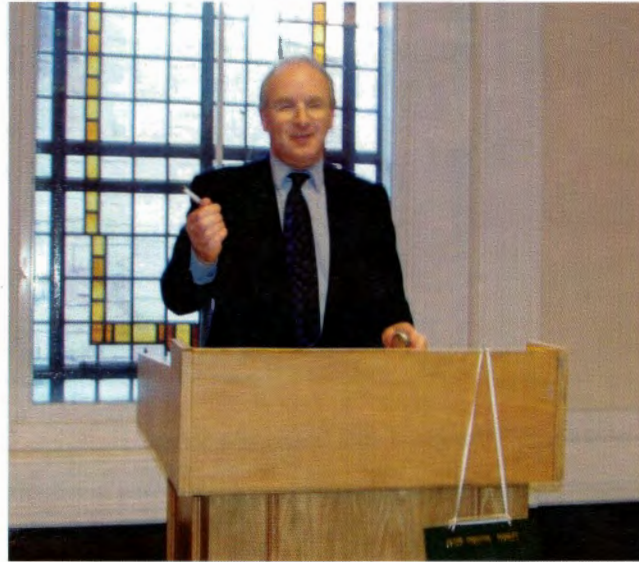
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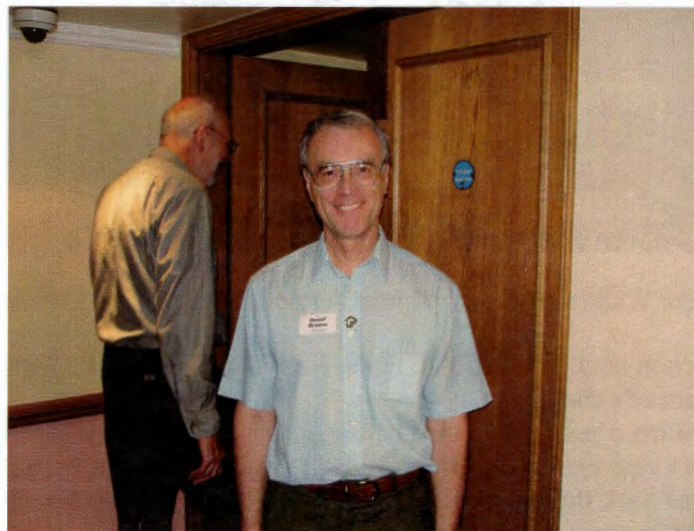
Silvis, Greg, "What Lies Beneath Middlesex 925?," The "Conder" Token Collector's Journal, Issue 39.

CTCC IN THE U.K. – FALL 2005

Several CTCC members attended the Dix Noonan Webb auction of the Spence collection in London and the Token Congress in Northampton. For those who could not attend, here are scenes from the events and around London.



Peter Preston-Morley---- Taken at DNW auction Great Queen Street, London.
Peter is the token expert at Dix, Noonan and Webb, Bolton Street, London. He has collected “Conder” tokens for many years, and has bought and sold thousands of them. Since arriving at DNW, he has served as the cataloguer and auctioneer for the series for the firm. Considering his vast experience handling the pieces, his comments in the catalogues are always interesting and accurate. He is about to open the 2005 auction of the Spence tokens, and he kindly posed for me.



Michael Dickinson----

Michael Dickinson is a well known figure in token circles, having written “17th Century Tokens and their Values” among other tomes. He attends the Token Congress every year, and we always have a pint and talk tokens. He is planning a guide for 18th C tokens as well.



Bill McKivor in front of Spence's Shop---Little Turnstile Street, Holborn, London. And-----



Jerry Bobbe and Mike Wehner under the "Little Turnstile Street" sign, Holborn, London.

After the DNW Auction in the fall of 2005, I took Jerry Bobbe and Mike Wehner down to have a look at the location of Spence's shop.

I had found the location a couple of years before, and when I realized that it was just a few blocks from the auction on Great Queen Street, I asked if they would like to have a look. We walked there after the auction, and took these photos. Spence's shop was located in a small maze of streets just behind what is now the entrance to the Holborn Tube Station. The address of his shop is no longer in use, but as close as I can figure, where I am standing in the photo is just about right in front of his door. There is a pub at the end of the block that has been in business since the mid 1700's--- Spence may have had a pint there!!



Cobwright----

This picture shows Mr Cobwright on your left in the photo, looking at another Congress patron. I tried to get his full face, but as he is the author of “A Walk in the Monkolkian Rainforest in Search of the Spiney Fubbaduck””, a tome on evasion tokens penned with Malachy Greensword and Shirley Rollington Hodsley, his photo is bound to be a bit evasive. At least you see some of him.



John and Stella Whitmore----

Two very nice people, John is VP International of the Conder Club, and author of books on Unofficial Farthings and other tomes, having just written a book called “The Token Collector’s Companion”, which I can recommend highly!! Stella is actually the founder of their firm, and John went along for the ride—a very successful one.



Paul and Bente Withers.

Paul and Bente are authors of so many books I cannot list them all, but if you wish to know anything about 19th C tokens their book is a must, and since they are booksellers and printers, many of the numismatic tomes printed about British tokens have come from their shop in Wales. Paul also is the one to see to find out if the food at Congress is any good, he always has an opinion, and as he is a gourmet cook himself, it pays to listen.

Bill McKivor

“Awake! Arise! Arm yourselves with truth, justice, reason. Lay siege to corruption. Claim as your inalienable right, universal suffrage and annual parliaments. And whenever you have the gratification to choose a representative, let him be from among the lower orders of men, and he will know how to sympathize with you.” **Thomas Spence, 1793**

[Images by Gary Sriro]



Middlesex 777



Middlesex 826b (Scarce)



Middlesex 819 (Scarce)



Middlesex 1086 (Scarce)

Dublin 32 *Bis*, 63 *Bis*, 125 *Bis II* & 303 *Bis*: Four New Varieties of Camac Tokens

Gregg A. Silvis

Harp with Six Strings

1. Dublin 32 *Bis*

Obverse: As Dublin 32. The **N** of **INCORPORATED** is retrograde.

Reverse: As Dublin 87. The **Y** of **HALFPENNY** is recut.

Edge: Plain

Reverse Rotation: Normal

Dalton & Hamer also list Dublin 32 as Dublin 145, with the same plate, in the **Harp with Nine Strings** section. This plate shows that the **N** of **PARLIAMENT** is also retrograde. The actual number of harp strings is indeterminate.



Harp with Seven Strings

2. Dublin 63 *Bis*

Obverse: Unlisted, but similar to Dublin 63. Line of ground to middle of **I**. Die flaw covers **T** of **ACT** to **O** of **OF**. Numerous rust lumps, including a large one over the **2**.

Reverse: Unlisted. Loop of **C** of cypher to second limb of **A**. Top of **C** of cypher to **D**. Large die flaw to left of **H** of cypher.

Edge: PAYABLE IN DUBLIN CORK AND BELFAST X X

Reverse Rotation: Normal



Harp with Eight Strings

3. Dublin 125 *Bis II*

Obverse: Unlisted. Similar to Dublin 125, but with **INCORPORATED** spelled correctly. **O**, **R** and **T** are from the same letter punches used on Dublin 125. A misplaced **E** can be seen above the 7.

Reverse: Unlisted. Similar to Dublin 125. Loop of **C** to second limb of **M**. Left downstroke of **M** is missing both serifs.

Edge: Plain

Reverse Rotation: 20 degrees CCW



Misplaced "E" above the 7

Turner Camac, Harp with Fourteen Strings

4. Dublin 303 *Bis*

Obverse: As Dublin 303.

Reverse: As Dublin 302.

Edge: PAYABLE IN DUBLIN OR BALLYMURTAGH

Reverse Rotation: Normal

This variety was discovered by Jerry Bobbe and acquired by the author from him.



Assigning a D&H number to an unlisted Camac token which represent a new muling of a listed obverse with a listed reverse is straightforward. This was the case for Dublin 32 *Bis* and 303 *Bis*. Using the number of the listed obverse or reverse, one can simply add “Bis” to the number to identify the new variety.

The situation is slightly more complicated for those tokens with neither the obverse nor the reverse listed in Dalton & Hamer, as was the case for Dublin 63 *Bis* and 125 *Bis II*. Dalton & Hamer were themselves somewhat inconsistent in their approach to applying Bis numbers to new varieties. With sections defined by number of strings on the harp, the numeric progression within each section generally reflects the position of the head in relation to the A of ACT, moving from left to right, i.e., left of A, nearly under A, under A, etc. One can then use these guidelines for inserting unlisted varieties in some reasonably logical fashion.

CONDER STRIKING ERRORS

Michael Grogan

Like any coins Conder tokens are subject to errors during striking that leave evidence of the striking process for us to study and appreciate. A common circulated token can become much more interesting if it bears the evidence of a striking error. This article will define and illustrate in a basic way the major types of errors produced during striking

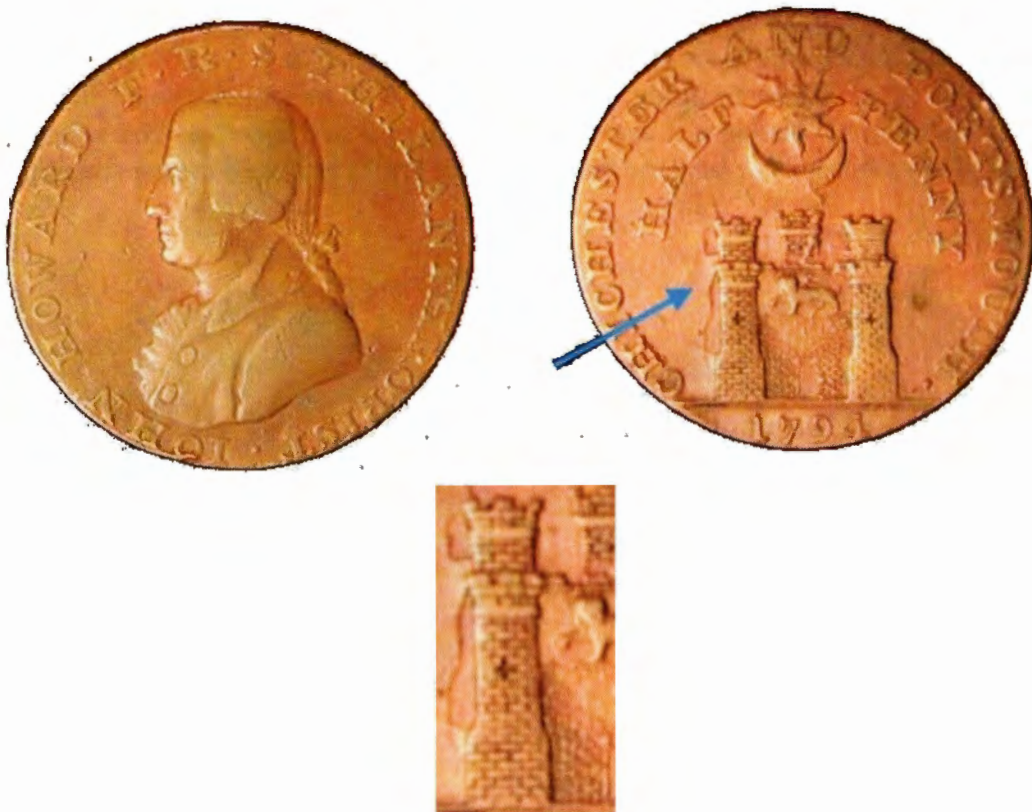
DIE CRACKS



A die crack occurs when a narrow fissure on the die surface allows metal from the planchet to move creating a thin raised line on the token, as on this Warwickshire 232. The die cracks often increase as the die deteriorates resulting in more and larger cracks, and eventually cuds and/or a shattered die. The Middlesex 746 below shows a near terminal die state.



DIE CLASHES



If the obverse and reverse dies come together without a planchet between them, a die clash occurs. Some die details may be impressed into the opposite die and appear as a reversed image on tokens struck from the damaged die. On this Sussex 19 John Howard's pigtail is clearly seen incuse on the reverse



On this Middlesex 981c lettering from the reverse appears as a mirror image on the obverse as a result of a die clash.

CUDS



When a piece of a die breaks off a raised lump of metal called a cud results on the token surface as on this Perthshire 2. The size of the cud depends on the size of the broken piece of die and may be very large, as here on a Middlesex 64. Various combinations of multiple cuds are also created as the die breaks up under continued use.



BROCKAGE



Rarely a newly struck coin or token will be stuck between the dies and the next strike creates a mirror image on the new planchet. A sharp full obverse brockage like this Middlesex 1127 is very desirable and valuable. Partial brockage strikes and distorted mirror images are more common.

DOUBLE STRIKE AND OFF CENTER STRIKE

If a token sticks in the dies it becomes struck more than once. If the token moves slightly but remains centered between the dies a doubled image is created on both sides. The token may fall partially outside the dies making the second image is only partial. A planchet that shifts between the dies will be struck off center. This Middlesex 760 is clashed, double struck on the obverse and reverse and off center.



Thanks to Jerry Bobbe and Larry Gaye of Cheapside Tokens for the images used to illustrate this article .The Middlesex 1127 image is by Gary Sriro.



FROM THE MAILBAG

Hi Michael,

I was reading under your Introduction on Page 4 of The "Conder" Token Collector's Journal, Volume XI, Number 1 Spring 2006, and when I read the name Wayne Anderson it caused me to remember something regarding "slabbed" British tokens. Here is the story:

Encapsulated British Tokens

I remember that in a note to Wayne Anderson 7 or 8 years ago, I asked him if he had ever heard of Conder tokens being professionally graded and encapsulated.

If I remember correctly, he replied to me that he had not encountered any "slabbed" Conder tokens and didn't know whether or not any had been. Since then, I obtained two British tokens via eBay that were encapsulated by "PCI, Certified Coin Service".

One is labeled only "Great Britain Token, 1794, VF-30". It is a Suffolk-Bungay, D&H 22, 1794, half penny Conder token. The obverse has the remains of an ancient fortress, Bigods Castle, and the reverse has a figure of Justice, standing. The edge cannot be determined because the token is very tightly slabbed. Dalton & Hamer lists 7 different edges; plain, milled, engraved, and 4 various legends. Edges a, b, e, & f are RRR (extremel rare) & c is scarce - plain and d are common.

The other token is labeled only "Great Britain Token, 1811, EF-45". It is an 1811-1820 British Copper Token, London-Thomas Wood - W845 - Davis 65, 1811, half penny token. The obverse is legend and the reverse is "The Old Stock Exchange" building. Although there are 3 varieties, this token is W845 because the obverse & reverse are 180 degrees apart, and the others are the opposite. There were few issuers of London tokens, but this one is still listed as VC, very common.

Incidentally, my local coin dealer said I should crack open the capsule containing the Conder token, to find out if it is a rare variety, or not. I just cannot do that - I guess the mystery makes it all the more interesting to me!

Wayne Hood - CTCC #35



Suffolk 22

Image by Gary Siro

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Cronebane, Irish Mine Co, Proof Halfpenny, 1789, in gilt-copper, from the David Litrenta collection, sold for \$1,000.



Carmarthen, John Morgan, a uniface die trial for the obverse of his Halfpenny, from the T.A. Jan and David Griffiths collections, sold for \$1,650.



Matthew Denton's 'Swan' Penny, 1797, from a collection of London 18th century tokens, sold for \$1,170.

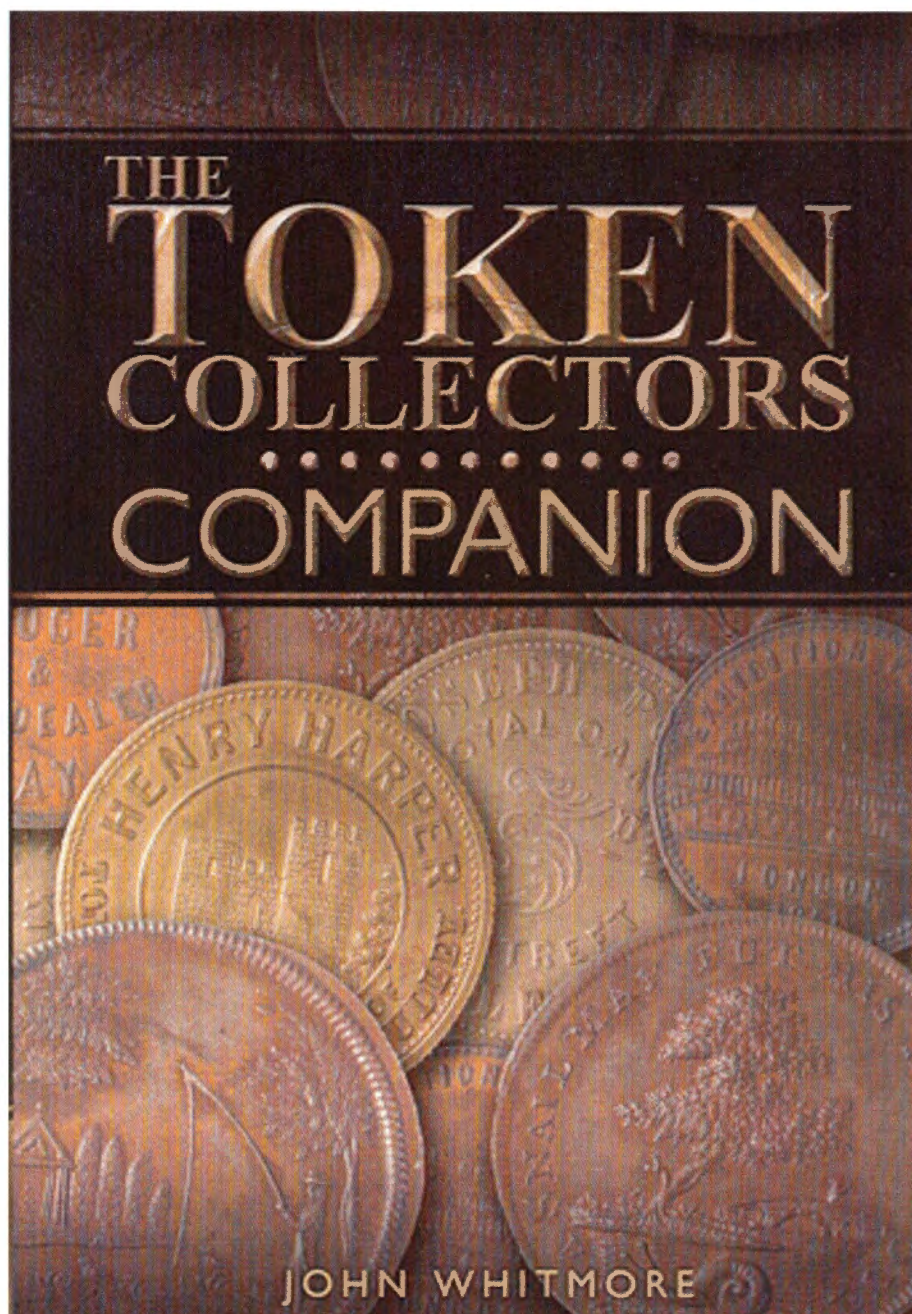
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